

Boating Regulations

Our local RCMP Detachment has put together some provincial and federal regulations for Boaters over the coming summer months. Feel free to email this to your members.

All boaters are required to have the Pleasure Craft Operator Card in order to operate a powered watercraft. There is no grandfather clause or age exemption – this law applies to all boaters. Powered watercraft includes watercraft fitted with any size motor — even an electric trolling motor. Not having the required Pleasure Craft Operator Card or proof of competency on board = \$250 fine

Alcohol consumption is not allowed on a vessel unless the vessel meets the following conditions:

- The vessel has permanent sleeping facilities;
- The vessel has permanent cooking facilities;
- The vessel has a permanent toilet; and
- The vessel is anchored or secured alongside a dock.

Boating while impaired is an offence under the Criminal Code. Convictions, even for a first offence, may result in heavy punishment.

There are age restrictions in effect for operating a boat:

- Under 12 years of age with no direct supervision - May operate a boat with up to 7.5 kW (10 hp)
- Ages 12 to under 16 with no direct supervision - May operate a boat with up to 30 kW (40 hp)
- Under 16 years of age, regardless of supervision - May not operate a personal watercraft
- 16 years of age or older - No horsepower restrictions

REMEMBER: Youth must also carry proof of competency to operate any motorized boat, supervised or not.

Minimum Safety Requirements for Personal Watercraft:

- One life jacket or PFD for each person on board
- One buoyant heaving line at least 15 meters long
- One watertight flashlight or three flares of type A, B or C
- One manual propelling device or one anchor and at least 15 meters of cable, rope or chain in any combination
- One bailer or manual bilge pump
- One sound signalling device or appliance
- One 5BC fire extinguisher

Operating a vessel with safety equipment not in good working order or not readily accessible and available for immediate use = \$200 Fine